been referred to M/o Law & Justice for advice. Based on the advice received from Ministry of Law & Justice, further decision shall be taken. In view of this, it is not possible to indicate a time frame.

Promotion of spiritual tourism

1705. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to develop, promote and popularise the spiritual tourism effectively in certain States of the country;

(b) whether such States have been listed and whether the State of Uttaranchal is one of them; and

(c) if so, the names of such States alongwith details of the selected places and the locations thereof for the spiritual tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Development and promotion of tourist destinations is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism assists the State Governments under its Scheme of "Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits". The scope of this scheme include development of tourist destinations which can contribute towards spiritual development.

(b) The State of Uttaranchal has become popular as tourist destination in this regard due to its impressive product.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism takes up development and promotion of tourist/spiritual destinations/circuits based on the receipt of proposals from the State Governments and this is a continuous process.

Connectivity of major tourist centres

1706. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are emphasising improved connectivity to major tourist centres in the country and particularly to South India;

(b) whether any action plan has been chalked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof;